

This effort is dedicated to our grandmothers. Our grandmothers who kept the fire burning through a long time of darkness. Our grandmothers who passed on our teachings. They shared their life experiences so we would be permitted to grow and become the best human beings we could be.

The fire is the spark, the impetus needed to create life. It is often seen as symbolic of the values and beliefs central to our society. We see the fire in all aspects of our life. Yet there was a time when the women who went before us were encouraged to leave our ways on the path and learn new ways.

It was very early on in our work to prepare this issue that we agreed to dedicate our efforts to our grandmothers. Those Indian, Inuit and Metis women who managed, often despite great adversity, to hold on to those ways, teachings and feelings that would ensure we would know who we are.

Our grandmothers would be our teachers. They would help us learn the questions we would face as we travelled through life. We were taught about the natural world. We were taught life skills. We were taught values and attitudes. We came to share a vision.

These women who we call grandmother wouldn't always be our "blood relatives." Some of them wouldn't necessarily even be biological grandmothers. They were nonetheless traditional teachers who had a great impact on all our lives. They left moccasin tracks so that we could follow. They were as different and diverse as we are. The bond they shared and passed on was a dream of us living the good life we were intended to have. A life based on peace in all our relationships, and not one based on material possessions.

When each of us came along there wasn't always enough time. Those who were available shared freely those things they knew. We were encouraged to talk, to communicate and, most importantly to feel. Some things were difficult and some grandmothers themselves lost the good red road; when they

lay down their load it would be harder on those who would follow. Destruction of the natural world, belittling the status of woman, depression and the system would all contribute to our losing some of those life teachings they were responsible for. Yet a few held on.

Perhaps now more than ever we need to look towards those grandmother-teachers amongst us. In these turbulent times the grounding, being tied to the natural world, fulfilling our life cycle responsibilities is more important and relevant than ever.

One of the most powerful teaching methods we have is "walk what you talk." Most of the time we never had any formal instruction. The stories of our people are often shared over tea and talk. In our traditional ways even the smallest child's voice must be heard and considered. Our grandmothers ensured we were heard and felt like we belonged.

Women are Keepers of the Culture. It was our grandmothers who held on to what they could of our identity as a People. It was they who in their own indirect way would ensure we would be able to know who we are. Oftentimes the fire would grow very dim, but still our grandmothers persisted. We

were taught that the time we are in is only borrowed from future generations — generations yet unborn. Our thoughts, words and actions impact seven generations from now. It is these children held sacred by our Mother Earth for whom we must leave a true fire.

Many of our grandmothers have already gone on. Many were called before they could teach us. They now help and teach us in other ways.

There are many grandmothers we could not speak with while we were preparing this issue. We do, however, recognize your work and contributions. To our grandmothers we say *nya-weh*, *meegwetch* for the teachings. We offer this dedication in recognition of your work.

There are now a few more of us to find the Kindling for the fires.



photograph MURRAY MCKENZIE

SUBSCRIPTIONS/ABONNEMENTS (1 year/1 an)

Institution/Institutional.....\$32
Individuals/Particulier(ère)s.....\$22
Outside Canada (Hors Canada): add \$6 (en plus).

Single copies/Copies individuelles \$6 (add \$1 for postage within Canada, \$2 outside Canada; veuillez ajouter \$1 pour l'affranchissement canadien, \$2 hors Canada). Back issues available on inquiry/Anciens numéros disponibles sur demande.

Canadian Woman Studies is published 4 times a year by Inanna Publications & Education Inc. Les cahiers de la femme

November 1989

est publié 4 fois par année par Inanna Publications & Education Inc.

Second Class mail registration no: 5912
Enregistrement de deuxième classe no: 5912

Contributors retain copyright. No reproduction of any part of this magazine without prior written permission. Les droits d'auteur demeurent avec les auteures et artistes. Aucune partie de ce magazine ne peut être reproduite sans permission écrite.

The articles printed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and the staff of CWS/cf, or of our funders. Les articles publiés dans ce magazine ne reflètent pas nécessairement les opinions des rédacteurs et du personnel de CWS/cf, ou de ses fondateurs.

CWS/cf is indexed in *Canadian Periodical Index* and in the Nellie Langford Rowell Library, 202C Founders College, York University. CWS/cf est indexé dans l'*Index des Périodiques Canadiens*.

National Library of Canada
ISSN 0713-3235
Bibliothèque Nationale du Canada

Funding Acknowledgements

The support of the National Association of Friendship Centres; the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres; and the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Citizenship (Native Community Branch), the Native Affairs Directorate, and the Women's Directorate, is gratefully acknowledged.

We also gratefully acknowledge the Secretary of State, Women's Program, for funding assistance during 1989-90.

Submission Guidelines

CWS/cf encourages unsolicited manuscripts. Because each issue of the journal is devoted to a specific theme, we refer potential contributors to our listing of proposed issues for the forthcoming year which we publish in each issue. Please write for a copy of our style sheet. In general, articles should be typed and double-spaced, with notes (kept to a minimum following the article; please send two copies of your submission, along with a brief (20-50 words) biographical note and abstract (100-150 words) of your article. If you want your manuscript returned after our editorial board has reviewed it, include a stamped, self-addressed 9"x12" envelope. We give preference

to articles of 10 pages (2500 words) which are previously unpublished. If possible, submit photographs and/or graphics to accompany your work.

CWS/cf reserves the right to edit manuscripts with respect to length and in conformity with our editorial guidelines; any substantive changes will be made only after consultation with the author.

Address all correspondence to: Canadian Woman Studies, Suite 212, Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3.

If your submission has been set on a word processor, we will be delighted to receive a copy of your floppy disk (if Macintosh) along with a printout.

ADVERTISING RATES

Outside back cover	\$300	(7.25" x 9.75")
Inside back cover	\$250	(7.25" x 9.75")
Full page (internal)	\$200	(7.25" x 9.75")
1/2 page	\$100	(7.25" x 4.75")
1/3 page	\$ 75	(4.75" x 4.75")
1/6 page	\$ 50	(2.25" x 4.75")

Camera ready ads preferred; any additional expenses incurred for typesetting, resizing of photostats, etc. will be rebilled to the advertiser.

TARIFS POUR LA PUBLICITÉ

Le dos de la couverture	300\$	(7.25" x 9.75")
L'intérieur de la couverture	250\$	(7.25" x 9.75")
Une page entière (à l'intérieur)	200\$	(7.25" x 9.75")
1/2-page	100\$	(7.25" x 4.75")
1/3-page	75\$	(4.75" x 4.75")
1/6-page	50\$	(2.25" x 4.75")

Les placards publicitaires prêts à imprimer sont préférés. Les frais additionnels pour la photocomposition, etc. seront payés par le publicitaire.

Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme
212 Founders College, York University
4700 Keele Street
Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3.
Call: (416) 736-5356